



# NEWS RELEASE

## Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

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### **ADVISORY ISSUED ON MEDICAL WASTE ALONG THE SALT RIVER**

Phoenix, AZ., February 19, 1993 -- The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) are cautioning the public not to touch medical waste that may wash up along the shoreline of the Salt River.

Only one instance of medical waste washing ashore has been reported to ADEQ's Solid Waste Unit. The waste, including used syringes and blood bags, was found on the south side of the river east of McClintock Drive and west of Price Road in an unincorporated area. The waste has been removed since it was reported to ADEQ.

Anyone finding medical waste should not touch it and also should keep children and animals away from it. If the waste is about to wash back into the water, observers are asked to look for a hospital name or other identifying mark while it is still visible.

People also are asked to record the location of any medical waste and report it to ADEQ. To record the location of the waste, please note the nearest cross-street or significant landmark.

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During the week, anyone finding medical waste should contact the Solid Waste Unit at 207-4121. On weekends, medical waste should be reported to ADEQ's 24-hour Emergency Response hotline at 275-2330. ADEQ will identify the appropriate authorities to remove the waste.

Since heavy rains began in January, waste has been washing into the Salt River from the Tri-City Landfill, operated by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.